



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

*P.O. Box 45010, Olympia, Washington 98504-5010*

February 20, 2008

TO: Governor Christine Gregoire

GMAP Leadership Team Members

FROM: Robin Arnold-Williams, Secretary *Robin*

SUBJECT: GMAP UPDATE REPORT – PUBLIC SAFETY: SEX OFFENDERS

This is a GMAP update report on the treatment and management of sex offenders. Attached please see the dashboard of key measures and the PowerPoint slides with updated action plans. The following are highlights from each program.

Cover letter information for inclusion in the Secretary's written GMAP update report to the Governor due on February 20, 2008

**Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration (JRA)**

**Reducing recidivism:**

- JRA implemented a pilot Function Family Therapy (FFT) program in Regions 3 and 4 with the view to expanding statewide if reductions in sexual re-offending are achieved. This is the first test of FFT with sex offenders in the nation. Preliminary outcome data for this pilot was expected in December 2007. However, data sharing between research principals took longer than expected because of personnel changes. The data is currently being tabulated and JRA expects deliver of preliminary outcome data in March.

**Placing homeless parolees:**

- The percentage of JRA sex offender parolees who are homeless is above target for the first time in 12 months. JRA will track homelessness rates monthly to determine if this is a trend or an anomaly.

- Landlords willing to rent to hard-to-place sex offenders (level 2 and level 3) have been identified in all six regions. JRA has no funding to pay for sex offender housing. Affording rent is an issue because of the difficulty sex offenders face in finding employment.
- JRA is working with the **State Advisory Council on Homelessness** to develop partnerships around stable housing for sex offenders leaving residential care. On February 22, the JRA Community Programs representatives are scheduled to make a presentation to the Council on the needs of homeless JRA parolees and the specific areas of assistance being requested.

**Locating whereabouts unknown parolees:**

- The percentage of JRA sex offender parolees on Whereabouts Unknown status has declined steadily since December 2006. Nevertheless, the number remains above target. Meeting target may require establishing JRA absconder tracker positions to locate whereabouts unknown youth and applying technological solutions to tracking sex offenders at risk to abscond. JRA will identify the costs associated with this for consideration as a Policy Level Decision Packet proposal.
- WAC's for legislation giving JRA authority to revoke sex offender parolees who fail to comply with parole conditions to residential custody for up to 24 weeks for public safety reasons will be finalized by March 2008.

**Juvenile sex offenders in treatment (institution):**

- 100% of sex offenders in JRA institutions are receiving sex offender specific treatment.
- JRA has revised the Sex Offender treatment curriculum used in residential programs to reflect most current national standards and a cognitive/behavioral focus. Staff training in the new curriculum for working with and counseling juvenile sex offenders using cognitive /behavioral principles begun in November, 2007 and has been completed with all staff in Institutions, State Community Facilities, and Contracted Community Facilities who work with sex offenders.

**Juvenile sex offenders in treatment (parole):**

- 97% of sex offender parolees are involved in treatment. Factoring out the 3% of sex offender parolees on whereabouts unknown status, every JRA sex offender parolee presently under active supervision is involved in treatment or has completed treatment.

## **Special Commitment Center**

### **Reducing annual evaluation backlog:**

- The SCC target for the Annual Evaluation Backlog is set at 10% or below. As of December 31, 2007, SCC currently has 199 civilly committed residents, for which 7 annual evaluations (3.5%) are currently behind schedule.
- The backlog has been at or below 10% since March 2007.
- SCC has undertaken several strategies to reduce the evaluation backlog, including: (1) working with prosecuting attorneys to more evenly spread out review dates, and (2) making efforts to maintain adequate forensic evaluator staffing levels.
- Given the record of success in this area, we are recommending that continued tracking of this GMAP item at the Governor's level be discontinued.

### **Sex offender assessment and research:**

- SCC is on target with the project timelines.
- We are proceeding with studying sex offenders to provide information about assessment tools and assessment practices. Agreement has been reached to conduct two studies.
  - A study of 135 sex offenders previously considered for civil commitment but not committed
  - A study that will look at archived data for 1000 sex offenders to identify the most effective instruments among existing sex offender risk assessments.
- The steering committee currently has representatives from SCC, JRA, DOC, the King County Prosecutor's office, the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs (WCSAP), and the Washington Institute for Mental Illness Research and Training (WIMIRT).
- At the November 2007 committee meeting, a research investigator position was designated to support the project.
- DSHS HRD has received a request for approval of a Research Investigator position to advance this initiative to the next phase.
- The SCC Superintendent intends to present an update on the steering committee's progress to the Secretaries of DSHS and DOC in February 2008.

### **Recommended Future Performance Measures**

- Resident treatment participation and progress
- Overcoming the near-term resident housing challenges

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I will be glad to provide you with additional information if needed. Thank you.

**Attachments**

cc: Robin Campbell  
Blake Chard  
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